

From: William Perez
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/27/01 2:17pm
Subject: justice for Microsoft

US Dept of Justice:

I am writing to ask you to reconsider the proposed Microsoft antitrust settlements. This is a travesty of justice which does not address their previous behavior which is what resulted in their market dominance. Nor does it justify the horrendous damage they have already done to the computer industry. When a criminal repeatedly breaks the law, the guilty party should be punished. Isn't that how our justice system supposedly works? A gentle slap on the wrist and ensuring they "never do it again" is not enough.

The "Be" operating system which ran on PCs and Macintosh computers is now dead. Palm, Inc. who acquired the company have no intention of trying to compete with Microsoft's unfair advantage again. It's too late to save Netscape which AOL/TimeWarner acquired after they could not compete with Microsoft's Internet Explorer web browser. IBM has documented that they lost millions because Microsoft would not give them an equal and timely license for Windows 95 due to IBM's "Lotus" products which tried to compete with Microsoft Office. Real Networks and Apple's QuickTime have also suffered unfairly due to Microsoft's advantage of tight product integration, which you can be sure they will continue to tighten and make more difficult for competitors in the future. Where is the justice for all this?

Microsoft is the world's largest software company and the company's founders are some of the richest people on this planet. 95% of all computers run their proprietary Windows operating system. Their Internet Explorer web browser remains the number one choice for PCs and even Macintosh computers. Microsoft Office is a \$500 product that also dominates its competition on both Windows and Macintosh platforms. It's clear to me that they are an illegal monopoly which has repeatedly violated the law and yet the proposed settlement is riddled with loopholes, leaving Microsoft in a position of power where they will continue to harm the industry and consumers.

The class action settlement proposed (to provide schools with free copies of Microsoft software and PCs) will only further entrench Microsoft's monopoly. Children will grow up accustomed to using Microsoft's tools and will prefer to buy their solutions in the future, which only benefits Microsoft in the long run! You should make Microsoft provide *competing* software and systems not their own. It's no big loss for them to duplicate copies of software they've already written.

I ask that Microsoft be properly punished, not helped, for their past crimes before more companies with great talent and merit end up bankrupt. They should feel remorseful of their illegal actions in the past and looking at

their latest offerings, namely Windows XP and XBox, I don't see that as being the case. Other technical companies that have been investigated for being a monopoly (AT&T, IBM) have not gotten off so easy. It's not fair or just in my opinion so I hope you reconsider a much harsher sentence.

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